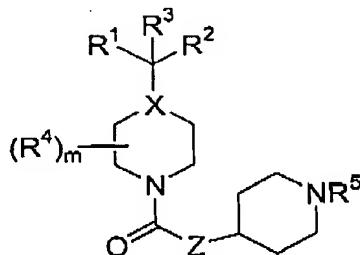


Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound represented by the structural formula:

**Formula I**

wherein:

X is N;

Z is O or N(R⁶);

R¹ and R² are the same or different, each being independently selected from the group consisting of aryl, heteroaryl, and aralkyl and heteroaralkyl, wherein each of said aryl, heteroaryl, and aralkyl and heteroaralkyl can be unsubstituted or optionally independently substituted with one or more moieties which can be the same or different, each moiety being independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, CF₃, CN, -OCF₃, -OR⁶, -C(O)R⁷, -NR⁶R⁷, -C(O)OR⁶, -C(O)NR⁶R⁷, -SR⁶, -S(O₂)R⁷, -S(O₂)NR⁶R⁷, -N(R⁶)S(O₂)R⁷, -N(R⁶)C(O)R⁷ and -N(R⁶)C(O)NR⁶R⁷;

R³ is H or -OR⁶, with the proviso that when X is N, R³ is not -OR⁶;

R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, and aralkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl and heterocyclyl;

m is a number from 0 to 4, and when m is more than 1, the R⁴ groups can be the same or different and are independently selected;

R⁵ is -C(O)R⁷ or -S(O₂)R⁷;

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, and cycloalkyl and heterocyclyl, wherein each of said alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, and cycloalkyl and heterocyclyl can be unsubstituted or optionally independently substituted with one or more moieties which can be the same or different, each moiety being independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, CF_3 , OCF_3 , CN, -OR⁷, -N(R⁷)₂, -CH₂OR⁷, -C(O)R⁷, -C(O)OR⁷, -C(O)NHR⁷, -C(O)N(R⁷)₂, -SR⁷, -S(O₂)R⁷, -S(O₂)NHR⁷, -S(O₂)N(R⁷)₂, -N(R⁷)S(O₂)R⁷, -N(R⁷)C(O)R⁷, -N(R⁷)C(O)NHR⁷ and -N(R⁷)C(O)N(R⁷)₂; and

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, -OR⁶, -NHR⁶, and -N(R⁶)₂, wherein each of said alkyl, heteroaralkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and aralkyl can be unsubstituted or optionally substituted with one or more moieties which can be the same or different, each moiety being independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, CF_3 , OCF_3 , CN, -OR⁶, -NHR⁶, -N(R⁶)₂, -CH₂OR⁶, -C(O)OR⁶, -C(O)NHR⁶, -C(O)N(R⁶)₂, -SR⁶, -S(O₂)R⁶, -S(O₂)NHR⁶, -S(O₂)N(R⁶)₂, -N(R⁶)S(O₂)R⁶, -N(R⁶)C(O)R⁶, -N(R⁷)C(O)NHR⁶ and -N(R⁷)C(O)N(R⁷)₂, further wherein the two R^6 or the two R^7 groups in the moieties -N(R⁶)₂ and -N(R⁷)₂ respectively can be the same or different and are independently selected, and still further wherein any two adjacent alkyl substituents on an aryl or heteroaryl can be joined together to form a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group, still further wherein said "heteroaryl" refers to an aromatic monocyclic or multicyclic ring system comprising 5 to 10 ring atoms, in which one or more of the ring atoms is nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, alone or in combination, and said "heterocyclyl" refers to a non-aromatic saturated monocyclic or multicyclic ring system comprising 5 to 10 ring atoms, in which one or more of the atoms in the ring system is nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, alone or in combination.

Claim 2: Cancelled.

Claim 3 (original): The compound of claim 1, wherein Z is O.

Claim 4 (original): The compound of claim 1, wherein Z is N(R⁶).

Claim 5 (currently amended): The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same and are aryl or heteroaryl, wherein each of said aryl and

heteroaryl is either unsubstituted or optionally independently substituted with one or more moieties which can be the same or different, each moiety being independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, -CF₃, -CN, -OCF₃, -OR⁸, -C(O)R⁷, and -C(O)OR⁸.

Claim 6 (original): The compound of claim 1, wherein R³ is H.

Claim 7 (original): The compound of claim 1, wherein R⁴ is H.

Claim 8 (original): The compound of claim 1, wherein R⁵ is -C(O)R⁷ or -S(O₂)R⁷.

Claim 9 (original): The compound of claim 8, wherein R⁵ is -C(O)R⁷.

Claim 10 (original): The compound of claim 1, wherein R⁶ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, aryl, -CF₃, -C(O)R⁷ and -S(O₂)R⁷.

Claim 11 (original): The compound of claim 10, wherein R⁶ is H, methyl or CF₃.

Claim 12 (original): The compound of claim 1, wherein R⁷ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aralkyl and aryl.

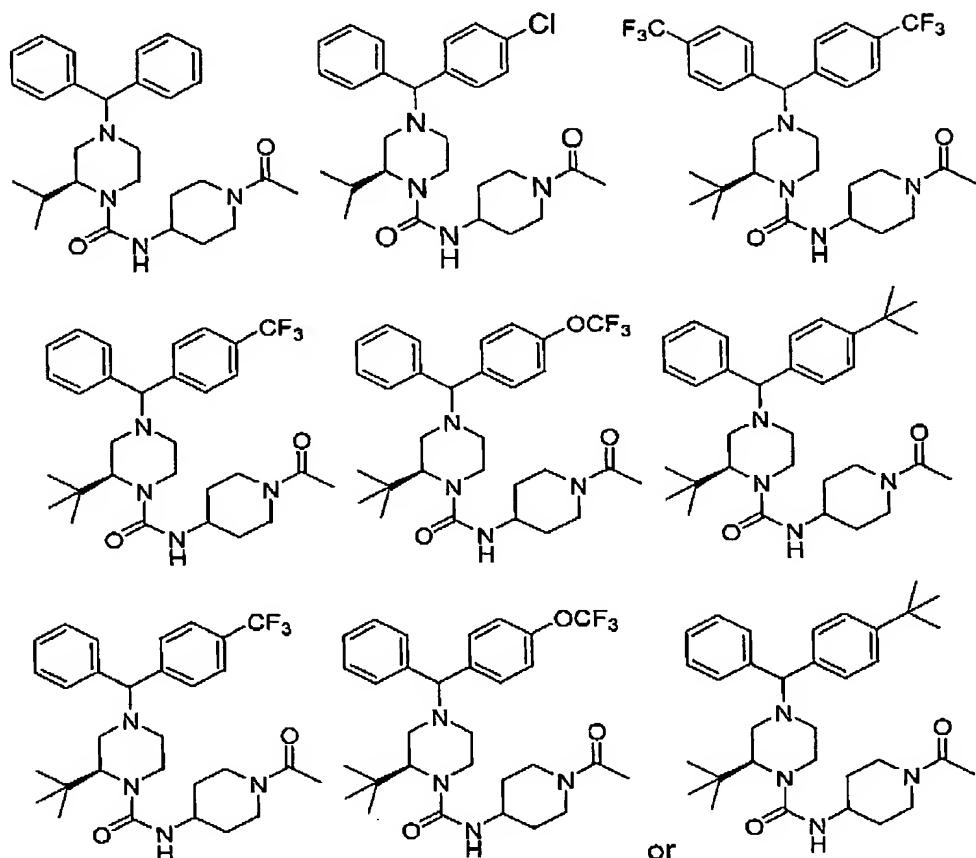
Claim 13 (original): The compound of claim 4, wherein R⁸ is H.

Claim 14 (original): The compound of claim 5, wherein R¹ and R² are the same and are phenyl, wherein said both phenyl groups are unsubstituted.

Claim 15 (original): The compound of claim 5, wherein R¹ is unsubstituted phenyl and R² is a phenyl substituted with one or more moieties selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, -CF₃, -OCF₃, and -C(O)R⁷.

Claim 16 (original): The compound of claim 12, wherein R⁷ is alkyl.

Claim 17 (previously amended): A compound of the formula:



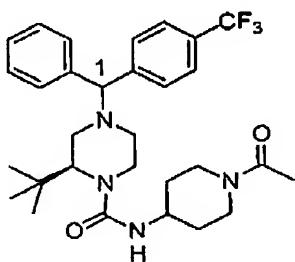
or stereoisomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate of said compound or of said stereoisomer.

Claims 18-30: Cancelled.

Claim 31 (original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of claim 1 in combination with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

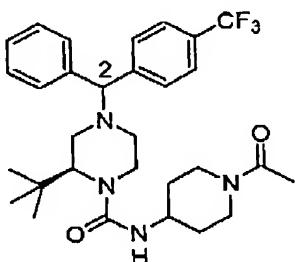
Claim 32: cancelled.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A compound of claim 4, having the structure:



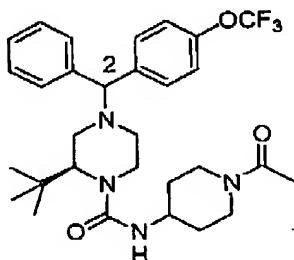
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A compound of ~~claim 1~~, having the structure:



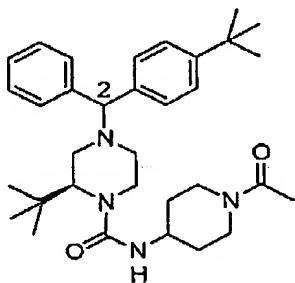
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A compound of ~~claim 1~~, having the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A compound of ~~claim 1~~, having the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

Claim 37: Cancelled.